



# English Housing Survey

## User engagement strategy



## English housing survey user engagement strategy

1. CLG is committed to engaging with all users of the English Housing Survey with a view to maximising its use for secondary analysis across the wider housing community. This document sets out how CLG will encourage and promote engagement with the full spectrum of EHS users to help ensure the survey meets key information needs in an efficient and effective way.
2. We will therefore seek to ensure that:
  - Information from the survey is readily accessible in a range of formats.
  - The survey outputs are clear and concise and the survey methodology is well documented.
  - Users are kept up to date on survey developments.
  - Users are consulted on any significant changes affecting the survey outputs.
  - Users are supported in their use of the survey.
3. The principal means by which we communicate with and support our users are through:
  - The EHS bulletin
  - The EHS advisory group
  - The UK data archive
  - The EHS website
  - EHS enquiry point
  - EHS report launch events

Each of these is described briefly below.

### **EHS bulletin**

4. The Bulletin is a newsletter designed to keep all users up to date with survey publications, consultations and any wider survey development and progress. It is published periodically normally to coincide with the publication of an EHS headline or annual report. Bulletins are posted on the EHS website
5. Bulletins are also e-mailed out to all users on the mailing list (currently about 150 users). Anyone interested in joining the mailing list should e-mail us at: [ehs@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ehs@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

### **EHS advisory group**

6. CLG have established an advisory group to engage with users from the wider housing community on the development of the survey. Minutes and papers of the advisory group meetings are posted on the EHS website.
7. Terms of reference for the group are:
  - a. To provide a forum for the exchange of information between CLG and external users of the survey.
  - b. To advise CLG on external users' information needs and current and planned uses of the survey.
  - c. To obtain external users' views and expert advice on proposed survey developments, dissemination plans and future direction of the survey.
  - d. To facilitate and encourage external use of the EHS survey results and data sets.

Advice from the group will feed into CLG decision making on the management, design, content, and reporting of the survey.

8. The group meets twice yearly under the chairmanship of the chief analyst and includes members from

DECC - fuel poverty team and energy efficiency/climate change team  
DWP  
Office for Disability Issues  
DoH  
DCSF  
Child Poverty Unit  
Homes and Communities Agency  
Academic members  
Joseph Rowntree Foundation  
National Housing Federation  
Shelter  
UK Data Archive

English Heritage  
Office for National Statistics  
Building Research Establishment  
Tenant Services Authority

### **The UK data archive**

9. Anonymised data sets from the EHS will be deposited at the Archive to facilitate secondary analysis at the national and regional level. Survey data will be deposited as an Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) Government Survey and will benefit from the additional support that the Archive provides for large-scale surveys. The ESDS will offer users guidance and support in using the survey but will not undertake analysis. The service is open to all users although some commercial users will be charged for the service.
10. The first data to be deposited will be for 2008/09 available autumn 2010. Data for the dwelling sub-sample' will be continue to be released for a two-year rolling sample as for the former EHCS. Data from the two predecessor surveys - the Survey of English Housing and the English House Condition Survey are already available there. CLG have also deposited a data set at the UKDA holding a sub-set of data variables from 15 years of the SEH from 1993 to 2008. The EHCS data set from 2003 forward is also available on CD directly from CLG. We are currently considering whether the SEH15 data set will be updated on an annual basis. The provision of an on-going EHCS-EHS data set is also being considered and we will keep users posted on decisions via the Bulletin.  
<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/findingData/sehTitles.asp>  
<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/findingData/ehcsTitles.asp>
11. We are also proposing to release a potentially disclosive data set containing small level geographic identifiers (postcodes) via either the ONS Virtual Microdata Laboratory or the UKDA Secure Data Service. The UKDA issue a special licence for users wishing to access data which pose a higher risk of disclosure meaning the licence has additional conditions.

### **The EHS website**

12. The EHS website provides users with access to:
  - The full set of EHS publications
  - EHS bulletins
  - A 'latest news' page giving short summaries of any recent developments
  - EHS tables

- FAQ section
- Users information pages which include technical notes on key aspects of the survey methodology including sampling errors; our revisions policy ; dissemination strategy; consultation exercises and our data security measures
- Information for households invited to take part in the survey

### **The EHS enquiry point**

13. Users can contact us by e-mail using the address below. We can provide advice and guidance about the availability of information from the survey. [ehs@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ehs@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

14. The Department wishes to support all users in making use of the EHS but has limited resources available to undertake bespoke survey analysis for third parties. We will of course continue to meet all our commitments under the Freedom of Information Act to release information where this already exists. In addition, any request that we receive which can be readily handled within 15-20min we will endeavour to respond to as quickly as possible.

15. Users should therefore contact the EHS team at CLG in the first instance. If CLG are unable to handle their request they will advise users on two alternative approaches:

- Downloading the EHS data set from the UKDA and undertake their own analysis. – see link above
- Commissioning the Building Research Establishment who offer a bespoke analysis service from the EHCS/EHS on a cost recovery basis.

Ad hoc analysis will normally be undertaken on the latest publicly available data set.

### **EHS report launch events**

16. We will host an annual public seminar to present the findings of our two annual publications on household trends and housing stock related findings. This is expected to be early autumn each year. Details will be announced via the EHS bulletin.

CLG/EHS

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